Shortage of telephone cables in Gujarat

4964. SHR1RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of telephone cables in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, this shortage is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATISUMTTRA MAHAJ AN): (a) There was some shortage of underground cable in Gujarat Telecom circle with respect to the Switching Capacity added during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, but the work of releasing New Telephone Connections was not held up.

(b) The shortage of cable was due to non-acceptance of complete tendered quantity by the bidders in the tender invited for procurement of cables during 2002-03 and also due to abnormal delay in supply of cable by M/s HCL (Hindustan Cables Limited) ordered during 2001-02.

(c) Cables were received during January to March, 2003 and as on 01 - 04-2003,8.465 LCKM (Lakh Conductor Kilo Meter) cable was available in stock and 8.7 LCKM cable was in pipe line. The cable laying works are in progress in various SS As (Secondary Switching Area) and now work is not held up for want of cable in Gujarat Telecom circle.

BSNL's basic services

4965. SHRINILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a substantial number of subscribers are opting out of the BSNL's basic services;

(b) if so, the details for the last two years, year-wise and profile of these subscribers, usage-wise and classification-wise e.g., rural, urban and metro;

(c) whether any study has been made to find out the reasons therefor, and

(d) the number of subscribers added to the BSNL's basic services during the corresponding period indicating comparative pattern in terms of usage and classification?